

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /093 W
-----102085 291900Z /46

R 291812Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1007
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14141

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR NEXT ROUND OF FRG/GDR
SOUNDINGS

REFS: (A) BONN 13597
(B) USBER 2195

BEGIN SUMMARY: BERLIN SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS
KORBER INFORMED THE CHARGE ON AUGUST 24 THAT THE
NEXT ROUND OF FRG/GDR SOUNDINGS HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL
WEEK OF AUGUST 29. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE FRG IS NOT
UNHAPPY WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT AND THAT MITDANK, IN AN
APPARENT ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT INDEPENDENT GDR/SENAT
NEGOTIATIONS, SUGGESTED A MEETING WITH KUNZE FOR
AUGUST 25. KUNZE DECLINED THE OFFER. WE WERE INFORMED
IN THE BONN GROUP ON AUGUST 26 THAT WISCHNEWSKI WILL
ADOPT A LOW-KEY POSITION ON THE (FOR THE FRG) NON-NEGO-
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TIABLE ISSUES AT THE NEXT MEETING IN ORDER TO AVOID PRO-
LONGED DISCUSSIONS OF THEM. WISCHNEWSKI WILL EXPRESS
"DISAPPOINTMENT" AT KOHL'S POSITION ON SEVERAL ISSUES,
ESPECIALLY THE HUMANITARIAN ONES, AND WILL SUGGEST THEY
SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED. HE WILL ALSO DISABUSE KOHL OF THE
IDEA THAT THE BUNDESBahn HAS MORE THAN A LIMITED MANDATE
FOR ITS TALKS WITH THE REICHSBAHN. END SUMMARY

1. BERLIN SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS KORBER, AT A LUNCHEON WITH THE CHARGE ON AUGUST 24, INFORMED US THAT THE SECOND ROUND OF SOUNDINGS BETWEEN THE FRG AND GDR HAS BEEN POSTPONED AT KOHL'S REQUEST UNTIL AN AS YET UNDECIDED DATE THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29. KORBER INDICATED THAT THE FRG IS NOT UNHAPPY WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO SAID THAT MITDANK, IN A LIKELY EFFORT TO CARRY ON GDR/SENAT NEGOTIATIONS INDEPENDENT OF THE FRG/GDR SOUNDINGS, PROPOSED TO KUNZE THAT THE TWO MEET AGAIN ON AUGUST 25. KUNZE DECLINED SINCE THE SENAT AGREED THAT NO SUCH MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT WISCHNEWSKI/KOHL ROUND IN WHICH WISCHNEWSKI WILL ONCE AGAIN TREAT THE BERLIN ISSUES.

2. FRG REP TO THE BONN GROUP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) PROVIDED CONFIRMATION OF THE FOREGOING IN A BRIEFING OF THE BONN GROUP ON AUGUST 26. VON BRAUNMUEHL ALSO SAID THAT THE SECOND MEETING WILL BE REGARDED BY BOTH SIDES AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO WHAT THE OTHER SAID AT THE LAST MEETING. WISCHNEWSKI PLANS TO RESTATE THE FRG POSITION OF THE NATURE OF THE FRG/GDR RELATIONSHIP, THE NATIONALITY QUESTION, ETC. HOWEVER, HE WILL DO SO IN A LOW-KEY FASHION BECAUSE KOHL DID SO IN THE SAME MANNER; THE FRG IS NOT INTERESTED IN A PROTRACTED CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSION OF THESE QUESTIONS. WISCHNEWSKI WILL ALSO EXPRESS TO THE GDR THE FRG'S DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE GDR RESPONSE, ESPECIALLY ON "HUMANITARIAN ISSUES" (VISITS, FAMILY REUNIFICATION, ETC.). HE WILL THEN SUGGEST THAT THESE MATTERS BE DISCUSSED FURTHER.

3. THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISCUSSION WITHIN THE FRG AS TO WHETHER THE FRG SHOULD MAKE ITS POSITION ON NATIONALITY MORE CLEARLY KNOWN TO THE GDR. HOWEVER, THE FRG HAS DECIDED THAT THE POSITION SHOULD NOT BE PRESSED IN THE INTEREST OF AVOIDING CONTROVERSY. ACCORDING TO VON BRAUNMUEHL, THE RECENT STATEMENTS BY MINISTER FOR INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS FRANKE ON THE NATIONALITY QUESTION, ESPECIALLY IN THE MANNER REPORTED IN THE PRESS, DO NOT REFLECT THE THINKING OF THE FRG.

4. ON THE BERLIN ISSUES, WISCHNEWSKI WILL RESTATE THE POSITIONS ALREADY EXPRESSED IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE FRG/GDR "ROOF" FOR THE DISCUSSIONS. INsofar AS THE BUNDESBahn/REICHsbahn IS CONCERNED, HE WILL SAY THAT THE ALLIED MANDATE TO THE BUNDESBahn DOES NOT MEAN THE ALLIES RECOGNIZE THE LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE GDR

DEMAND FOR AN INCREASE IN PAYMENTS. WISCHNEWSKI WILL
INFORM KOHL THAT THE BUNDESBahn HAS ONLY A LIMITED

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MANDATE FROM THE ALLIES AND THAT NO CHANGE IN THE
"REGULATIONS" REGARDING PAYMENTS IS AUTHORIZED.
(COMMENT: WE SUGGESTED THAT IT APPEARS THE SOVIETS MAY
NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE LIMIT OF THE MANDATE AND SAID
THAT WISCHNEWSKI MAY WISH TO REVIEW THE TEXT OF THE
NON-PAPER GIVEN TO THE SOVIETS, USING SOME OF THE SAME
WORDS IF APPROPRIATE, IN THE HOPE THAT THE GDR WILL
NOT BE SURPRISED AT THE FRG POSITION WHEN NEGOTIA-
TIONS BEGIN.)

5. MEICHSNER OF THE BERLIN REPRESENTATION HERE SAID THAT
THE FRG AND SENAT DO NOT WANT ANOTHER ROUND OF GDR/
SENAT DISCUSSIONS AT THE MOMENT SINCE THEY WOULD APPEAR
TO BE SEPARATE SOUNDINGS AND WOULD SERVE THE SOVIET AND
GDR PURPOSES BY MAKING IT APPEAR THE SENAT WAS CARRYING
ON INDEPENDENT AND PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR.
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IN ADDITION, FOR THE FRG TO AGREE TO SUCH A KUNZE/
MITDANK MEETING WOULD SUGGEST THAT KUNZE IS EMPOWERED
TO NEGOTIATE ALL ISSUES ON BEHALF OF THE SENAT. THIS
IS NOT THE CASE, HOWEVER, SINCE KUNZE'S COMPETENCE IS
LIMITED TO QUESTIONS OF BERLINERS' TRAVEL TO EAST BERLIN
AND THE GDR. OF THE FOUR MAJOR BERLIN ISSUES, KUNZE IS
COMPETENT FOR THE NORTHERN CROSSING POINT (DUCKBILL).
SHOULD MITDANK SEEK TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE
ABOUT THE OTHER THREE BERLIN POINTS, KUNZE WILL REFER
HIM TO THE SENATOR FOR BUILDING AND HOUSING AS THE
APPROPRIATE DISCUSSION PARTNER.
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